

now taking more advanced courses in high school, their performance on mathematics and science achievement tests has improved substantially, and discrepancies among racial/ethnic groups have narrowed in some cases in the last two decades.

The role of education technology in U.S. schools has been changing rapidly. Hand-held calculators are commonly used in both U.S. homes and classrooms. About one-fourth of fourth grade teachers and three-fourths of eighth grade teachers report that they use calculators for solving complex problems. By 1998, nearly all schools reported that at least one computer was linked to the Internet and half of the classrooms had access to the Internet. Computers are less often used in mathematics classes than in other subjects. Teachers who had several computers in their classroom were the most likely to report that the Internet was of use to them for student research projects, but at the same time, only about 20 percent of teachers feel “very well prepared” to integrate technology into the subjects they teach.

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